

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A medical network server for receiving and transmitting information on electric medical charts from/to a plurality of medical institutions through a communication network, comprising:

a patient information storage section storing thereon the information on the electric medical charts including medical records of a plurality of patients diagnosed by a physician at each of the plurality of medical institutions, and location information indicating location of each of the medical institutions or addresses of patients;

an incidence rate computing section for computing incidence rate of a disease in each area based on the medical records and the location information of the plurality of patients;

a spread area identification section for identifying a first area, where the disease spreads, based on the incidence rate computed by said incidence rate computing section; and

a spread area forecast section for forecasting a second area, related to the first area with respect to the spread of the disease and in which the disease is supposed to spread in the future, based on a relationship between the first area and the second area.

2. The medical network server as claimed in claim 1, wherein said spread area forecast section forecasts the second area based on outbreak history information including the incidence rate of the disease in each of the areas during a plurality of time periods in the past.

3. The medical network server as claimed in claim 1, wherein said spread area forecast section forecasts the second area based on frequency of traffic between the first area and the second area.

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4. The medical network server as claimed in claim 1, further comprising an outbreak forecast information storage section storing thereon the outbreak forecast information, wherein said spread area forecast section forecasts the second area based on the outbreak forecast information stored on said outbreak forecast information storage section.

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5 (ex. 3). The medical network server as claimed in claim 2, wherein said spread area forecast section further forecasts a time period when the disease will spread in the second area based on the outbreak history information.

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6 (ex. 4). The medical network server as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a warning section for issuing warning to the medical institution located in the second area forecasted by said spread area forecast section in order to prompt the medical institution located in the second area forecasted by said spread area forecast section to prepare for the spread of the disease in the future.

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7 (ex. 5). The medical network server as claimed in claim 6, further comprising a medical device indicating section for indicating medical devices required by the medical institution for diagnosis and treatment of the disease to the medical institution.

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8 (ex. 6). The medical network server as claimed in claim 7,  
whereinsaidmedicaldeviceindicatingsectionfurtherindicates  
quantity of the medical devices required by the medical  
institution for diagnosis and treatment of the disease to the  
5 medical institutions based on the incidence rate computed by  
said incidence rate computing section.

9 (ex. 7). A medical network system for relaying information  
on electric medical charts through a communication network,  
10 comprising:

a plurality of medical institutions storing therein the  
electric medical charts; and

a medical network server for receiving and transmitting  
the information on the electric medical charts from/to the  
15 plurality of medical institutions through the communication  
network, wherein

said medical network server comprises:

a patient information storage section storing thereon the  
information on the electric medical charts including medical  
20 records of a plurality of patients diagnosed by a physician at  
each of the plurality of medical institutions, and location  
information indicating location of each of the medical  
institutions or addresses of patients;

an incidence rate computing section for computing  
25 incidence rate of a disease in each area based on the medical  
records and the location information of the plurality of  
patients;

a spread area identification section for identifying a  
first area, where the disease spreads, based on the incidence  
30 rate computed by said incidence rate computing section; and

a spread area forecast section for forecasting a second

area, related to the first area with respect to the spread of the disease and in which the disease is supposed to spread in the future, based on a relationship between the first area and the second area.

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10. A method of receiving and transmitting information on electric medical charts from/to a plurality of medical institutions through a communication network, comprising steps of:

10 storing information on the electric medical charts including medical records of a plurality of patients diagnosed by a physician at each of the plurality of medical institutions, and location information indicating location of each of the medical institutions or addresses of patients;

15 computing incidence rate of a disease in each area based on the medical records and the location information of the plurality of patients;

identifying a first area, where the disease spreads, based on the incidence rate computed in said incidence rate computing step; and

20 forecasting a second area, related to the first area with respect to the spread of the disease and in which the disease is supposed to spread in the future, based on a relationship between the first area and the second area.

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11. A computer readable medium storing thereon a program for causing a medical network server to receive and transmit information on electric medical charts from/to a plurality of medical institutions through a communication network, the program comprising modules configured to execute steps of:

30 storing information on the electric medical charts

including medical records of a plurality of patients diagnosed by a physician at each of the plurality of medical institutions, and location information indicating location of each of the medical institutions or addresses of patients;

5        computing incidence rate of a disease in each area based on the medical records and the location information of the plurality of patients;

         identifying a first area, where the disease spreads, based on the incidence rate computed in said incidence rate computing  
10    step; and

         forecasting a second area, related to the first area with respect to the spread of the disease and in which the disease is supposed to spread in the future, based on a relationship between the first area and the second area.

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